

98/24

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
TWYFORD MEADOWS,
SOUTH WITHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SWT97)**

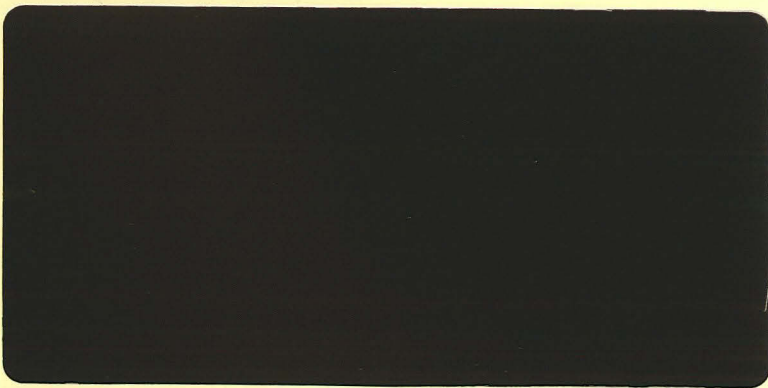


A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

26 JAN 99

ack 26/1



Event L13498
Sources L18210 48211
35736 L183345 Roman
35737 483346 Preh
35738 483347 GMed/Med
35739 483348 Med/Preh
35740 483349 undated

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
TWYFORD MEADOWS,
SOUTH WITHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SWT97)**

Work Undertaken For
Twyford Estates Ltd

December 1998

Report Compiled by
Jenny Young BA (Hons)

Planning Application No.: SK96/836/68/37
National Grid Reference: SK 9255 1965
City and County Museum Accession No: 160.97

A.P.S. Report No. 70/98

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological
Organisation (No. 21)*

CONTENTS

List of Figures

Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
2.1	Definition of a Watching brief	1
2.2	Planning Background	1
2.3	Topography, Geology and Soils	1
2.4	Archaeological Background	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	3
5.	Results	3
5.1	The Stratigraphic Sequence	3
5.2	Phase 1: Geological Deposits	3
5.3	Phase 2: Undated Archaeological Deposits	3
5.4	Phase 3: Recent Deposits	4
6.	Discussion	4
7.	Conclusions	5
8.	Acknowledgements	5
9.	Personnel	5
10.	Bibliography	5
11.	Abbreviations	6

Appendices

1	Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief
2	Context Summary
3	The Finds, <i>Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Phil Mills</i>
4	Glossary
5	The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General Location Plan
- Figure 2 Site Location Plan
- Figure 3 Plan of development, showing examined Plots
- Figure 4 Plan of Plots A-F, showing Section locations
- Figure 5 Plan of Plots G-L, showing Section locations
- Figure 6 Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Figure 7 Sections 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
- Figure 8 Sections 13, 14, 15 and 16
- Figure 9 Line of Postholes and possible tree hollow

Plates

- Plate 1 Plot I during excavation, looking across the development area
- Plate 2 Plot C, showing stone in ?robbed wall trench (017)
- Plate 3 Plot D, showing stone-filled ditch (023)
- Plate 4 Section 16, Plot J, looking southeast

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was completed during a programme of residential works at Twyford Meadows, South Witham, Lincolnshire. The development is situated in close proximity to known Romano-British and medieval remains.

An undated, but possibly early, robbed out wall was revealed beneath a layer of subsoil. This layer contained a very few pieces of Roman pottery but no later material. Cutting into the subsoil were a pit, a ditch and postholes from a former field boundary, though all these were undated. Recent topsoil covered most of these features.

In addition to the Roman artefacts, a small quantity of prehistoric flints and medieval and later pottery was found.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Between the 10th June 1997 and 22nd July 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during soil stripping and excavation of foundation trenches for 16 out of a total of 36 dwellings on land at Twyford Meadows, South Witham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the proposed development was sought through the submission of planning application number

SK96/836/68/37. A programme of archaeological monitoring was recommended by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist because the development was likely to disturb archaeological remains. The watching brief was carried out to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks were recorded.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Twyford Estates Ltd. to undertake the watching brief in accordance with requirements defined by the Archaeological Project Brief prepared by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

South Witham is located 16km south of Grantham and 16km northwest of Stamford, astride the River Witham in South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig.1). The development lies on the north bank of the river, in the northwestern part of the village, at National Grid Reference SK 9255 1965. Located on a slight slope southwards down to the river, the site lies at a height of c. 101m OD (Fig. 2).

Local soils are predominantly of the Ragdale Association pelo-stagnogley soils developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293). Natural deposits encountered during the watching brief comprised grey and yellowish brown clays, and sand and silts.

2.4 Archaeological Background

South Witham is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric and later periods. The earliest artefacts retrieved from the vicinity of the site comprise an Early Bronze Age flat axe found 900m to the north.

Artefacts and a cemetery dating from the Romano-British period have also been recorded close to the site. Ermine Street, a major Roman road, is followed by the eastern boundary of the parish, approximately 1km to the east of the site. A Roman coin (SMR 33687) has been retrieved 500m to the south of the development area. A lead lined coffin with skeleton and Romano-British pot (SMR 33692) has been recorded 200m east of the site (Fig. 2).

Further Romano-British remains have been recorded 700m to the southwest of the development area on the site of a post-medieval quarry. These comprise a cemetery along with buildings and a well (SMR 33686).

South Witham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as '*Widme*' or '*Wime*' the name possibly derives from the word '*Widumanios*' as referred by the Ptolemy, the 2nd century AD geographer. The word '*widu*' may be identical with the Welsh word '*gwydd*' meaning forest (Ekwall 1974, 527). The second element of the word may be a derivative suffix or word for river related to the latin word '*manare*' meaning to flow.

The Domesday Survey records that South Witham was divided between various landowners including Ernuin the Priest, Alfred of Lincoln and Countess Judith. The Survey also records half a church, 60 acres of meadow and 100 acres of woodland in the parish (Foster & Longley 1976, 179).

Later remains dating from the medieval period and later are also recorded in the vicinity of the development area.

To the east, cropmarks consisting of ridge and furrow have been recorded along with ironworking (SMR 33693).

West of the development, a watching brief recorded the stone walls of a possible water mill (SMR 34813). A windmill (SMR 33621), now demolished, was located c. 500m to the southwest of the site.

To the north of the development, the site of the 12th century Preceptory of the Knight's Templar has been excavated. Excavations revealed that the site had functioned as a medieval manor with a chapel and tower, defensible hall-keep, two halls, kitchens, barns and workshops arranged around a central courtyard (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 669-70).

To the southeast of the development area, the parish church of St. John the Baptist dates from the 12th century with later additions. Standing buildings dated to the post-medieval period comprise 17th and 18th century farmhouses, houses, barns and public house (DoE 1987).

During the late 19th century, the Holywell Iron Company exploited limestone beds to the southwest of the village (Wright 1982, 171). The Saxilby railway line was constructed in 1898 along with the quarrying of ironstone north of the Sewstern to Gunby Road. By 1907 and 1908 quarrying had extended both east and west and by 1910 the ore was calcined on site. The two quarries met all the companies requirements until the war.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as outlined in the brief (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of archaeological remains, if present.

4. METHODS

Groundworks for an access road and a representative sample of the building foundation trenches, defined by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, were subject to archaeological monitoring (Fig. 3). The excavations and stripping were undertaken by a JCB mechanical excavator. Footings for the dwellings were opened to a width of 0.3m and up to a depth of 1.25m below the present ground surface.

Sections of the excavated deposits were recorded at a scale of 1:10. Sketch plans of the development was also made. Colour print photographs were taken during groundworks, depicting the setting of the site and recording deposits exposed by development.

5. RESULTS

5.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Finds recovered during excavations were examined and a date was assigned where possible. Records of deposits exposed by groundworks were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where appropriate. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Three phases were identified:

Phase 1: Geological deposits

Phase 2: Undated archaeological deposits

Phase 3: Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5.2 Phase 1: Geological Deposits

Deposits of grey clay (009, 014, 022, 028, 038), occasionally with decayed chalk and limestone fragments, was observed in the bases of many of the foundation trenches.

Above this, or forming the lowest encountered deposit elsewhere, were layers of yellow-fawn clay with silt lenses (004, 025, 027, 033, 037). A prehistoric flint was recovered from (025).

On the west side of the site, in Plot F, the grey clay (028) dipped sharply to the north (Fig. 7, Section 10). Above this depression was a lens of yellow fine sand and silt (027) which was in turn sealed by iron-stained grey clay (026).

5.3 Phase 2: Undated archaeological deposits

Cutting into the natural clay (014) in Plot C at the centre of the site was a northwest-southeast linear, flat-based feature (017). Deposits of grey and brown clay (016 and 015 respectively) that contained a roughly worked stone (Plate 2) filled this feature which is interpreted as a possible robbed out wall (Fig. 6, Section 6).

Sealing this possible robber trench, and observed elsewhere across the site, was a yellow-fawn clay subsoil that contained occasional fragments of Roman pottery (003, 012, 013, 021, 036, 039).

Cutting through the subsoil in Plot A, on the south side of the site, a steep sided pit (006) with a concave base was recorded cutting through the subsoil (Fig. 6, Section 2). The pit was filled by a fawn sandy clay (005) which was devoid of artefacts. Cutting through this pit, a field-drain (008) was recorded.

In Plot D, at the site centre, was a shallow

ditch (023) with gradual sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, Section 7; Plate 3). Greyish red silty clay containing abundant stones (020) and moderately stony grey-brown clay (019) filled this ditch but did not contain artefacts.

Also in the site centre, adjacent to Plot D, was a series of four oval cuts (043, 045, 047, 049), each about 0.5m wide. These extended in an approximately north-south line for a distance of *c.* 5.5m and are interpreted as postholes of a fence line. All were filled with organic, grey-brown silt (Fig. 9).

About 5m south of the southern end of the fence line was a large oval feature (051), approximately 8m by 6m in area. Filled with organic, grey-brown silt (050), this is interpreted as a possible tree hollow.

5.3 Phase 3: Recent deposits

A layer of topsoil developed over subsoil and archaeological deposits. This deposit varied from brown clay (040) to dark brown clayey silt (002), (011), (024) and (035), and yellowish brown (018) or blackish grey silty clay (032), (034). These topsoils contained recent field drain, together with redeposited prehistoric flint, Roman tile and 15th-17th century pottery.

A layer of brownish red sand (031) containing ash and building rubble overlay the topsoil in Plot I, in the northeastern part of the site. This deposit is interpreted as recent building refuse.

Overlying this deposit of building refuse was a layer of yellowish grey-brown clay containing building rubble (030), interpreted as a levelling deposit.

Above the topsoil in Plots A and B were layers of pale yellow crushed stone (001 and 010), interpreted as dumped deposits.

6. DISCUSSION

The watching brief has recorded a sequence of geological and undated and recent archaeological deposits.

The earliest recorded deposits were grey clays (Phase 1), typical glacial drift formed in the last Ice Age. A sharp dip in the clay on the west side of the site may mark the edge of a former natural watercourse.

Above the glacial drift were yellow clays and silts which are probably of alluvial origin and associated with the adjacent River Witham. A prehistoric flint tool was recovered from these deposits but was unweathered and therefore may indicate some human activity of the period in the vicinity. A further prehistoric flint was recovered from the modern topsoil.

Cutting into the Phase 1 natural clay was a possible robbed out wall foundation trench (017, Phase 2). This was undated but there are reasons to suspect that it may be early. Firstly, it is orientated northwest-southeast, whereas most of the boundary alignments in the main part of the village, south of the river, are north-south and east-west. It is probable that many of these village alignments were established in the medieval period and the differing orientation of the wall may, therefore, suggest that the wall was already out of use when the north-south and east-west land parcelling pattern was established. Secondly, the wall was sealed by a subsoil that contained few artefacts, but those solely of Roman date.

The subsoil is probably an old agricultural layer and it is likely that the Roman artefacts recovered from the deposit entered the area in manuring scatter.

Medieval material is almost absent from the area, indicating that it was unoccupied

during that period. Moreover, the lack of medieval material would suggest that the land did not serve an arable purpose as such land would have been spread with manure that commonly contains artefacts. The reason for this is unknown though possibilities include that the area was part of the Templar estates, associated with the preceptory to the north, and used for other purposes, or that the site, being close to the river, was boggy or subject to flooding and therefore unsuitable for arable use.

Cutting into the subsoil were a possible pit (006) and ditch (023), though neither of these features yielded functional material to assist determining their use or date. A north-south line of postholes (043, 045, 047, 049) and a probable tree hollow (051) probably represent a former field boundary. However, although undated all contained organic soils and are not thought to be ancient.

Topsoil (Phase 3) overlay the undated archaeological remains and formed the present ground surface at the site. Although of 20th century date, the topsoil contained a small amount of earlier material of prehistoric to 17th century date indicating human activity, though of indeterminate nature, in the area in the past.

Recent dumping and disturbance, resulting from the ongoing construction activities, had occurred on the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at Twyford Meadows, South Witham, to provide a record of any archaeological remains that might be disturbed by development. Remains of Roman and medieval date were known to be located nearby.

A small number of archaeological remains was revealed, mainly in the south central part of the site. These remains, probably mostly representing boundaries rather than occupation evidence, were undated though a scatter of Roman and medieval pottery was recovered from the site.

No environmental evidence was observed during the investigation and, although the river is close by, is unlikely to survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Peter Burrows of Twyford Estates Ltd. who commissioned the watching brief and post-excavation analysis. Ian Mitchell of Twyford Estates Ltd kindly provided assistance during the site investigations. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Hilary Healey kindly commented on the pottery and advised as to its significance. Jenny Stevens, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the archaeological parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Rene Mouraille, Darren Pullen and Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-Excavation Analysis: Jenny Young

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

DoE, 1987 *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, District*

of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire

Ekwall, E., 1974 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names* (4th Edition)

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T., 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, Lincoln Record Society 19

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

IFA, 1997 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Pevsner, J. and Harris, J., 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*, (2nd Edition, rev. N. Antram)

Wright, N., 1982 *Lincolnshire Towns and Industry 1700 - 1914*, History of Lincolnshire Volume XI

11. ABBREVIATIONS

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

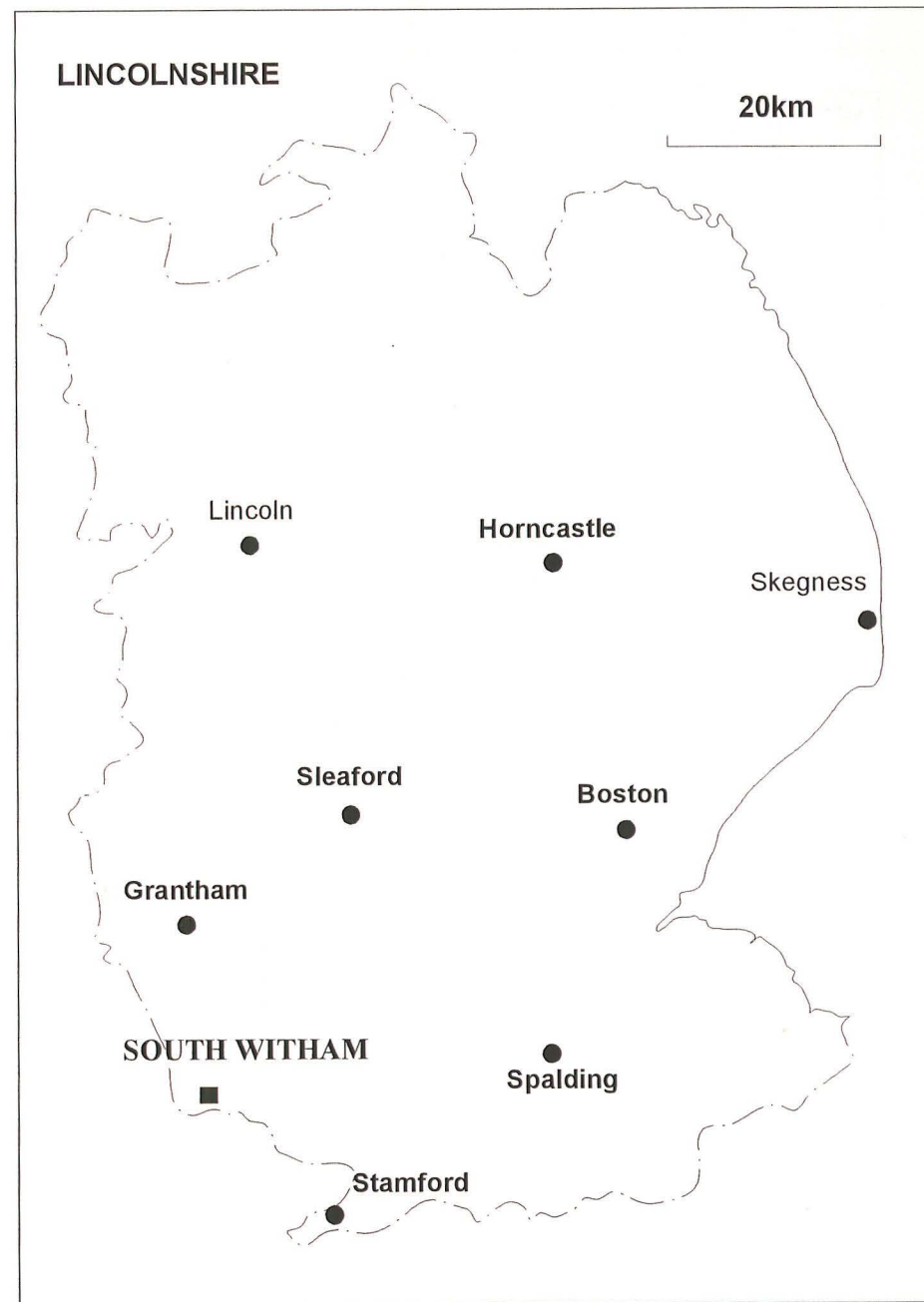
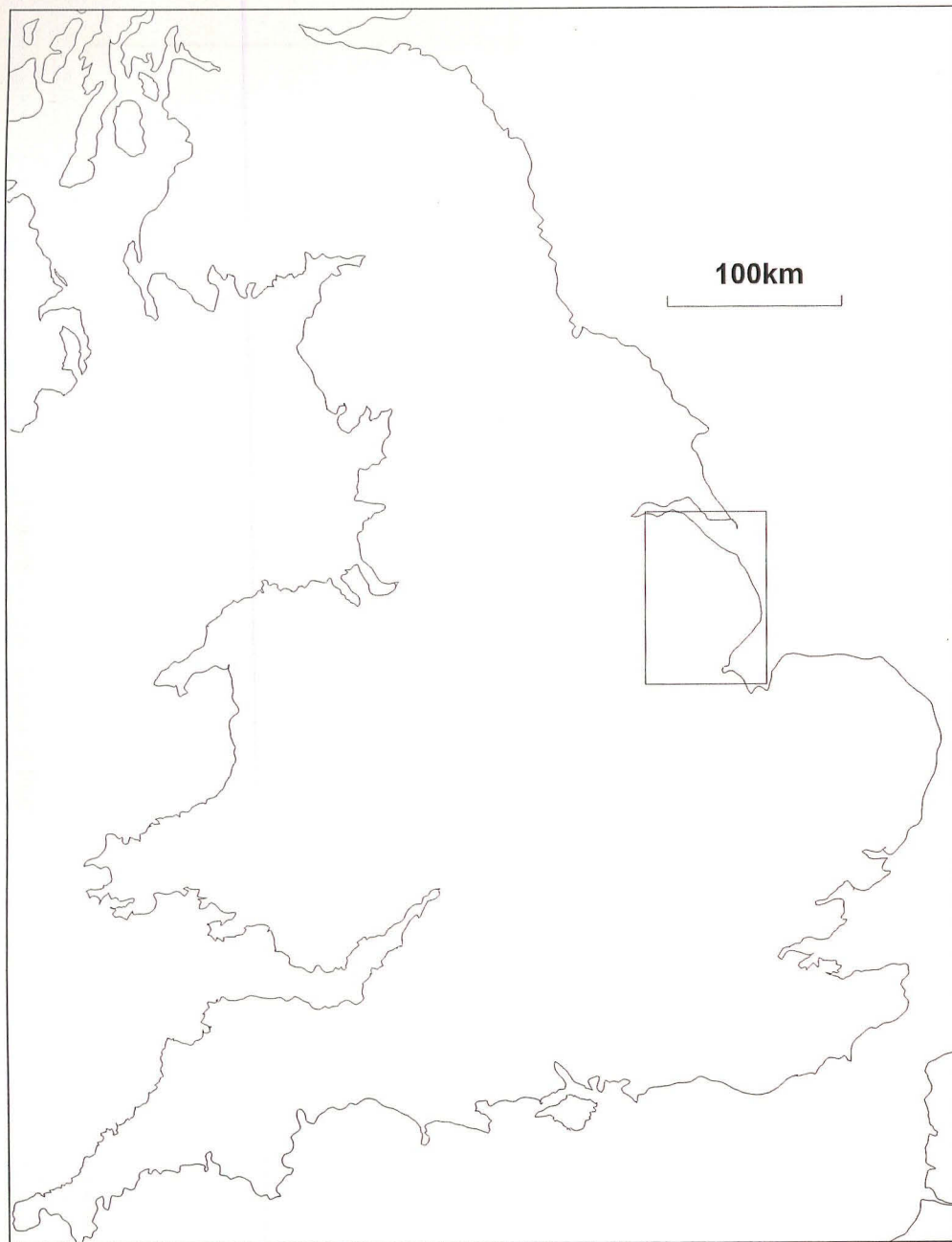


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

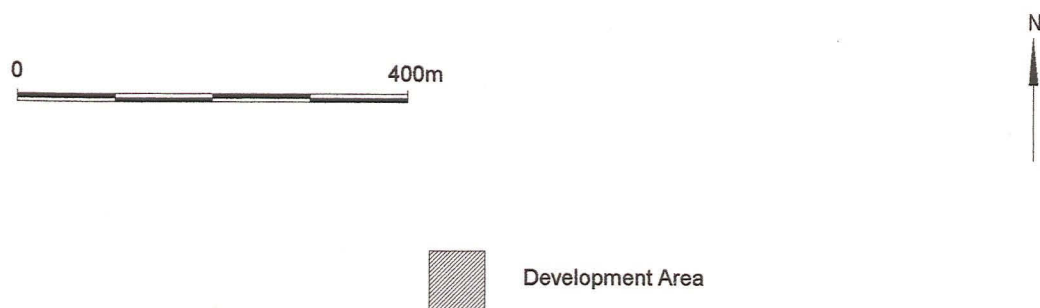


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



0 40m



Recorded plots



Examined plots (no archaeology)

Figure 3 - Plan of Development, showing examined Plots

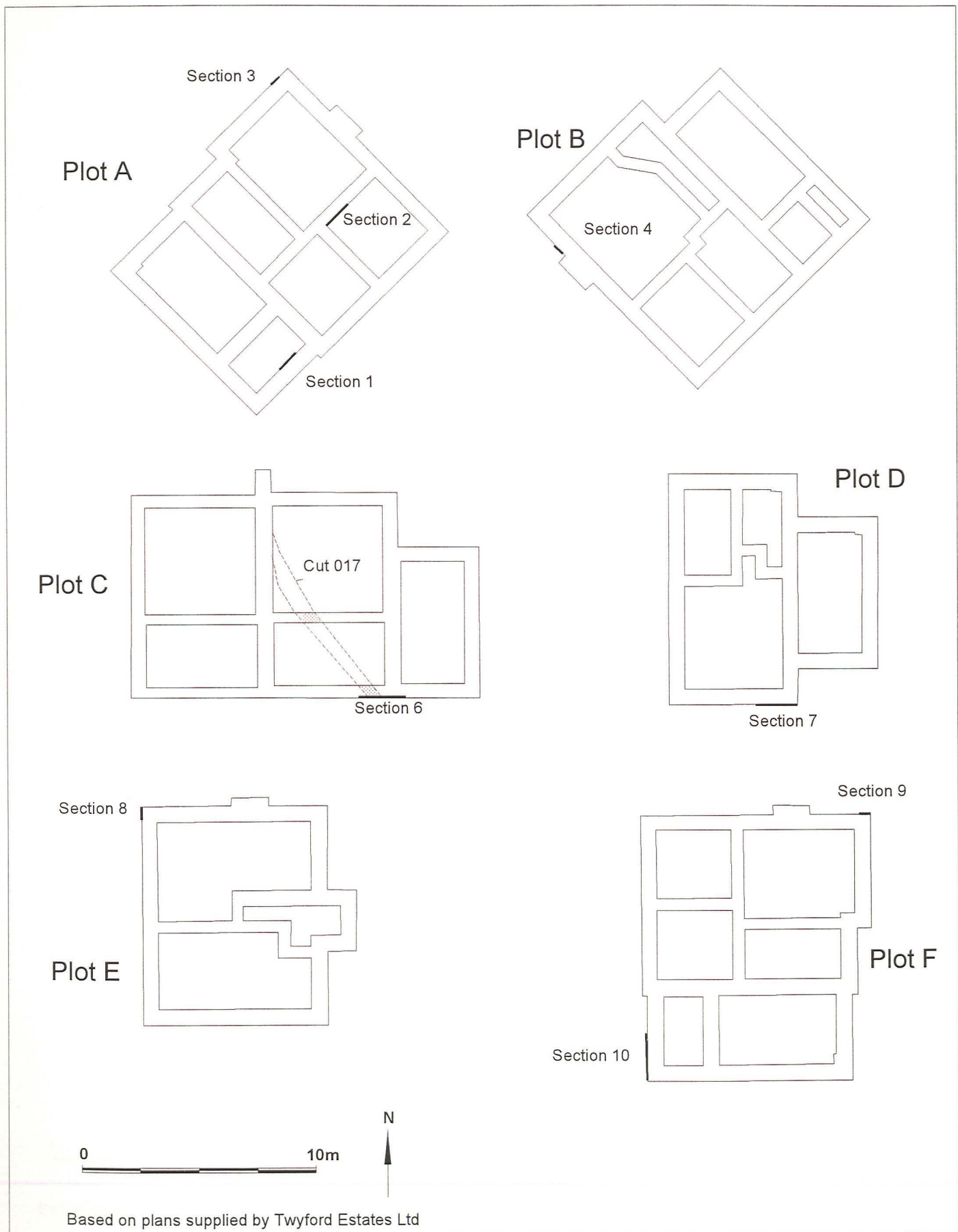
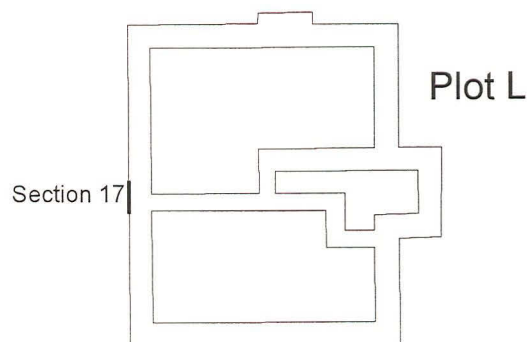
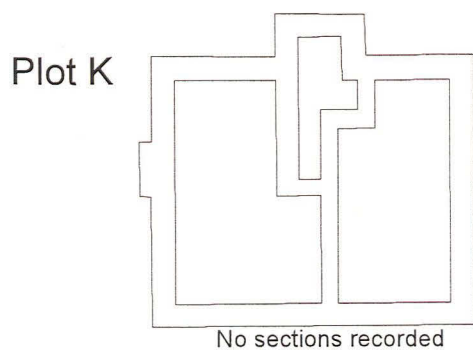
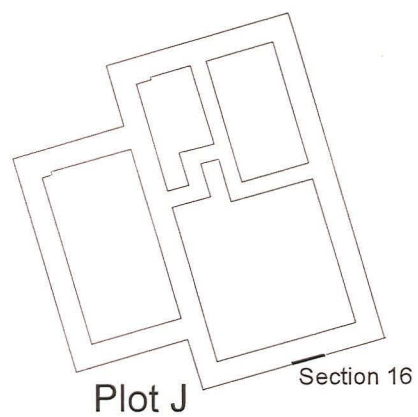
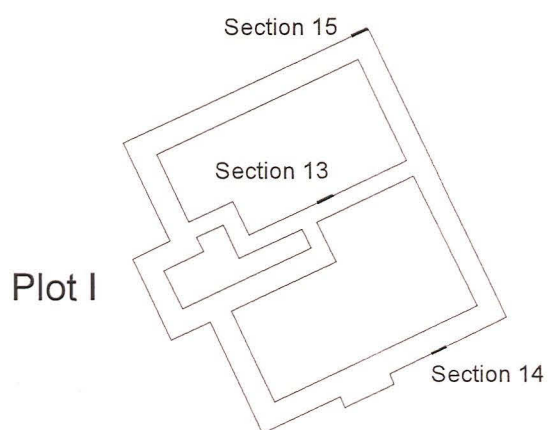
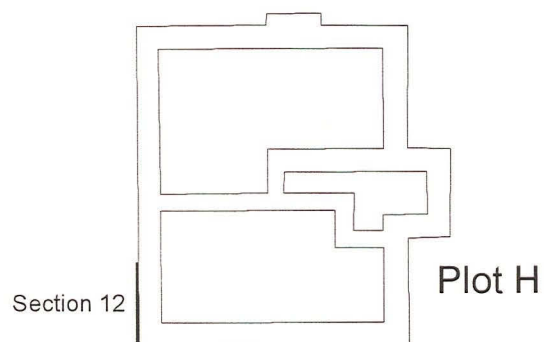
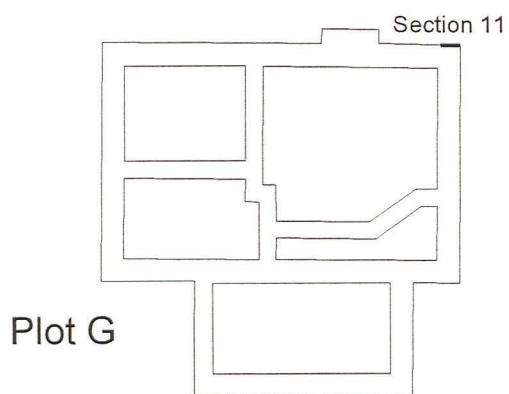
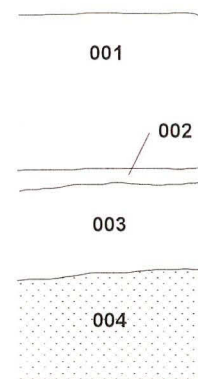


Figure 4 - Plan of Plots A-F, showing Section locations

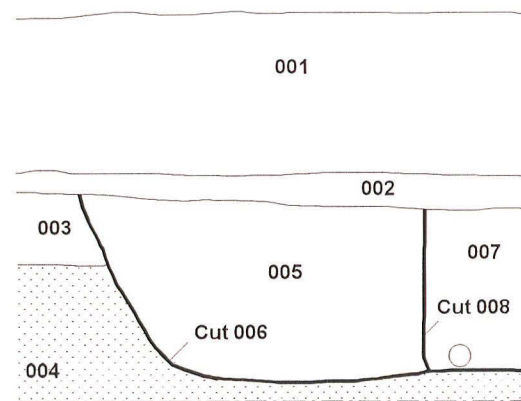


Based on plans supplied by Twyford Estates Ltd

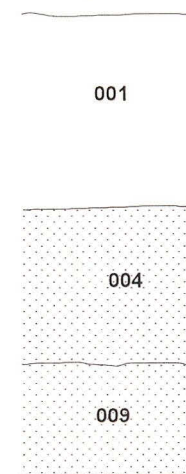
Figure 5 - Plan of Plots G-L, showing Section locations



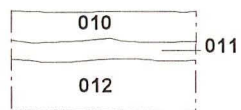
Section 1



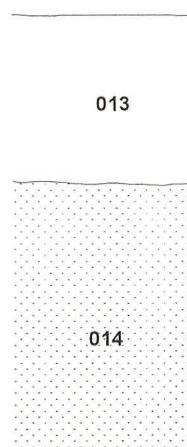
Section 2



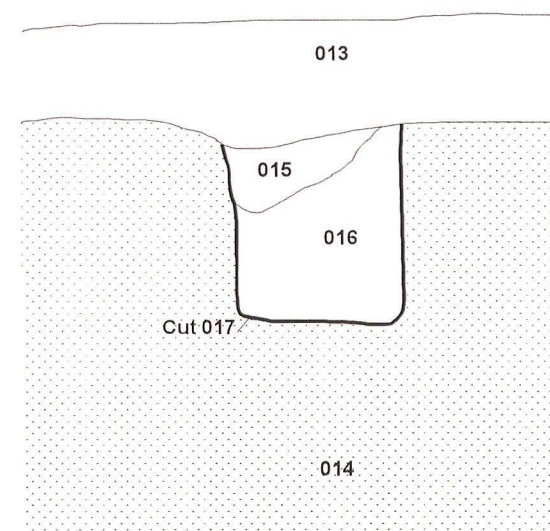
Section 3



Section 4



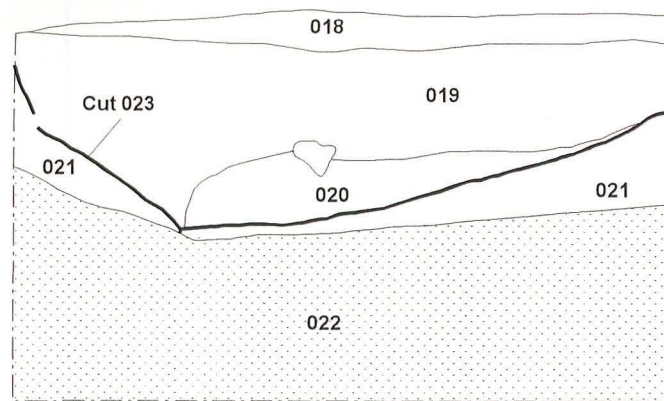
Section 5



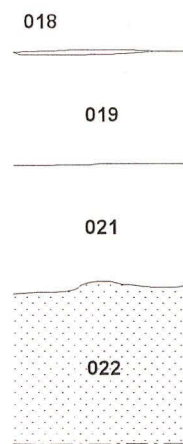
Section 6

 Natural deposits

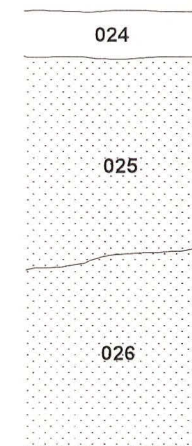
Figure 6 - Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6



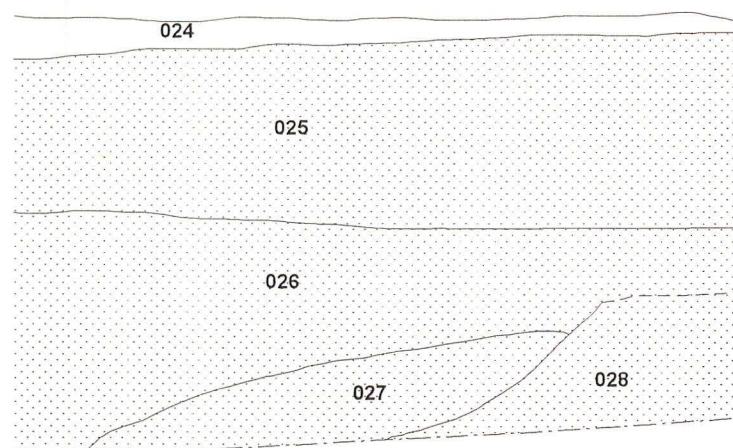
Section 7



Section 8



Section 9



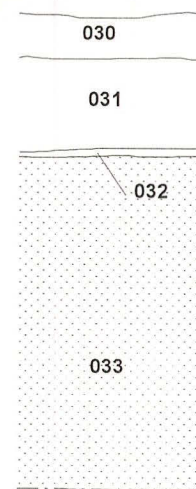
Section 10

 Natural deposits

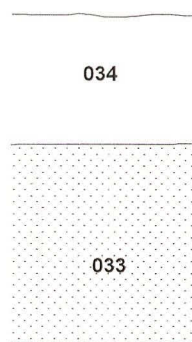


Section 11

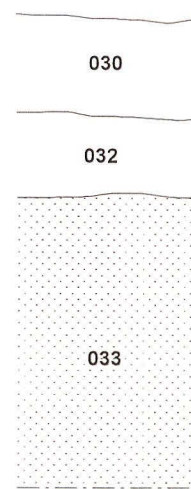
Figure 7 - Sections 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11



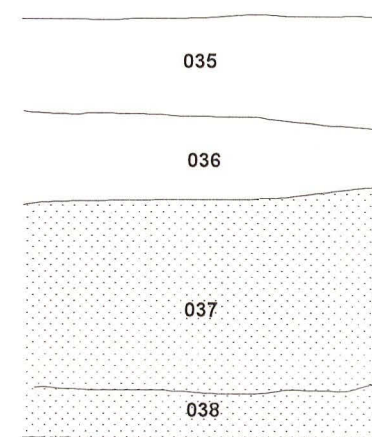
Section 13



Section 14



Section 15



Section 16

 Natural deposits



Figure 8 - Sections 13, 14, 15 and 16

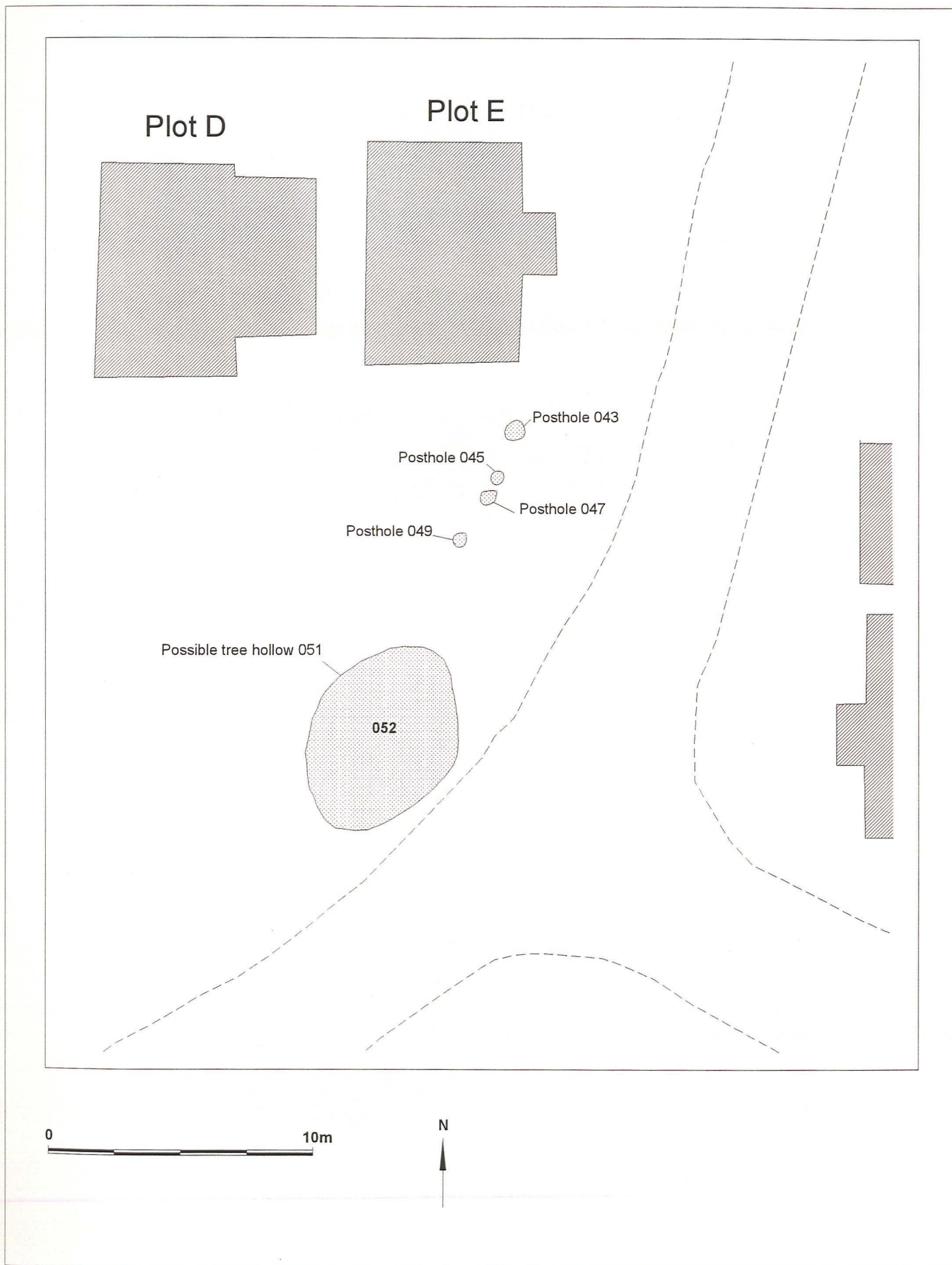


Figure 9 - Line of Postholes and possible tree hollow



Plate 1 : Plot I during excavation,
looking across the development area



Plate 2 : Plot C, showing stone in ?robbed wall trench (017)



Plate 3 : Plot D, showing stone-filled ditch (023)



Plate 4 : Section 16, Plot J, looking southeast

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF. WATCHING BRIEF DURING PHASE II TWYFORD MEADOWS, SOUTH WITHAM.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the development of land at Twyford meadows, South Witham.
- 1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.
- 1.3 The detailed specifications will be submitted for approval to the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.

- 2.1 The application site is situated within the village of South Witham, South Kesteven. South Witham is approximately 16Km south of the main town of Grantham, with the proposed development lying in the north western side of the village at NGR: SK 9255 1965 (Please see enclosed map.)

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND.

- 3.1 The proposed development is for the erection of c.35 houses and associated services and access. The development has planning permission from South Kesteven District Council, with a standard condition requiring an archaeological watching brief to take place.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development lies within the village of South Witham, whose origins can be traced back to at least the very early Norman period and probably the Roman period. It lies just to the west of the Great North Road, once known as the Roman road Ermine Street, now the A1. Not surprisingly for a settlement so close to Ermine Street there is evidence for Roman activity within South Witham. This includes stray finds of coins and pottery (in association with a burial in a limestone coffin), and most significantly a large Romano-British burial site (24 skeletons, plus stone building, coffin and well) which was found in Melton Mowbray Quarry to the south west of the development site.
- 4.2 More substantial medieval remains have come from the parish. The village church, St. John the baptist, has late 12th century elements, with 13th century additions. Just to the north of the village on the road to North Witham, is the monument for which South Witham is best known, the site of the Preceptory of the Knights Templar. One of the Templars wealthiest estates it was founded in the 12th century. It seems to have been disused by 1311, with the land being farmed from elsewhere once the Templar order had been dissolved. Excavations which took place in 1965-6 showed that the complex had functioned as a medieval manor. With a chapel with tower, defensible hall-keep, two halls, kitchens, barns and workshops arranged around a central courtyard.
- 4.3 Due to the existence of a number of important archaeological sites within the parish, there is a possibility that archaeological remains may be present on the current development site.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK.

- 5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the

groundworks are recorded and interpreted and that any remains disturbed are recovered.

- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the Watching Brief project should only be made after discussion with the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council.

- 5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed.

5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full. **It is expected that an approved single context recording system will be used for all on-site and post fieldwork procedures;**

5.3.5 **An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation and report production in the form of 'person hours.'** This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.

6. METHODS

- 6.1 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

- 6.2 The watching brief should involve:

6.2.1 archaeological supervision of soil stripping;

6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;

6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;

6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;

6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;

6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording of them;

6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties;

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 The Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least seven days notice prior to the commencement of the work. The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council Planning Department, the Developer and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:

8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;

8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;

8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;

8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements should be made for long term storage of all artefacts in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.

8.3 A site archive should be produced and deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 8.2.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

9.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

Brief set by Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council. June 1997.

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Plot	Description	Interpretation
001	A	Moderate light yellowish fawn, stone and crushed stone containing hessian sacking.	Levelling or hardstanding.
002	A	Moderate dark brown clayey silt containing occasional moderate stones.	Topsoil.
003	A	Moderate mid brown silty clay containing occasional moderate stones.	Subsoil.
004	A	Moderate to firm light to mid yellowish fawn clay with silt lenses.	Natural.
005	A	Moderate light to mid fawn sandy clay with iron mottling, occasional medium stones, grey clay, charcoal and manganese.	Fill of (006).
006	A	Cut with steep sides and concave base (0.9m wide x 0.48m deep).	Pit.
007	A	Moderate dark brown clayey silt containing occasional moderate stones and land drain.	Fill of (008).
008	A	W-E linear cut, with steep sides and a flat base (4m long x 0.28m wide x 0.44m deep).	Field drain.
009	A	Firm mid grey clay containing occasional decayed stone.	Natural.
010	B	Firm light whitish yellow Ancaster roadstone.	Foundation material.
011	B	Firm dark brown clayey silt.	Topsoil.
012	B	Firm mid brown silty clay containing occasional subangular stone.	Subsoil.
013	C	Moderate mid yellowish fawn clay containing moderate small angular and rounded stones, and decayed sandstone.	Subsoil.
014	C	Moderate to firm light to mid grey clay containing stone and iron staining.	Natural.
015	C	Loose mid brownish grey clay containing silt and stone.	Secondary fill of (017).
016	C	Moderate mid grey silty clay with a fawn hue, containing decayed chalk and iron patches.	Primary fill of (017).
017	C	NW-SE linear cut, with vertical sides and a flat base (0.45m wide and 0.54m deep).	?Robbed out wall.
018	D/E	Moderate mid yellowish brown silty clay containing sand and rounded stones.	Topsoil.
019	D/E	Moderate mid greyish brown clay containing silt, chalk and moderate stone.	Secondary fill of (023).

020	D	Moderate mid greyish red silty clay containing frequent stone.	Primary fill of (023).
021	D/E	Moderate mid brownish grey clay.	Subsoil.
022	D/E	Firm dark grey and fawn brown clay containing silt patches, medium stone, iron staining and decayed sandstone and mudstones.	Natural.
023	D	Cut with gradual sides and concave base (1.7m wide x 0.23m deep).	Ditch.
024	F/G	Moderate mid to dark brown silt containing clay patches and small rounded stones.	Topsoil.
025	F/G	Firm light to mid yellowish fawn clay with silt, containing chalk and limestones.	Natural.
026	F/G	Firm mid to dark grey clay containing moderate iron staining and occasional chalk, limestones, coal and silt.	Natural.
027	F	Soft light yellowish fawn fine sand and silt.	Natural.
028	F	Firm dark grey clay containing occasional orange clayey silt and decayed chalk and limestone.	Natural.
029	H	Firm pale yellow brown clay.	Natural.
030	I	Moderate mid yellowish grey brown clay containing building rubble.	Levelling deposit.
031	I	Moderate light to mid brownish red sand containing ash, building rubble, rubbish and plaster.	Building dump.
032	I	Moderate mid blackish grey silty clay.	Topsoil.
033	I	Firm mid yellowish grey brown clay containing large rounded stones.	Natural.
034	I	Moderate mix of yellow stone and mid blackish grey silty clay containing brick and building material.	Topsoil.
035	J	Moderate mid dark brown silt and clay.	Topsoil.
036	J	Firm light yellowish brown silty clay containing small decayed sandstones.	Subsoil.
037	J	Moderate mid yellowish brown stony silty clay with a grey hue.	Natural interface.
038	J	Firm mid to dark brownish grey clay containing silt and decayed chalk.	Natural.
039	K	Firm light to mid yellow brown silty clay containing occasional subangular sandstones and limestones.	Subsoil.
040	L	Hard mid brown clay containing limestone fragments.	Topsoil.
041	L	Hard dark grey clay containing limestone fragments.	Natural.
042	adj. E	Mid-dark greyish brown silt, quite organic.	Fill of posthole (043).
043	adj. E	Oval cut, 0.8m x 0.6m.	Posthole.
044	adj. E	Mid-dark greyish brown silt, quite organic.	Fill of posthole (045).

045	adj. E	Oval cut, 0.5m x 0.4m.	Posthole.
046	adj. E	Mid-dark greyish brown silt, quite organic.	Fill of posthole (047).
047	adj. E	Oval cut, 0.5m x 0.4m.	Posthole.
048	adj. E	Mid-dark greyish brown silt, quite organic.	Fill of posthole (049).
049	adj. E	Oval cut, 0.45m x 0.4m.	Posthole.
050	adj. E	Mid-dark greyish brown silt, quite organic.	Fill of ?tree hollow (051).
051	adj. E	Oval cut, <i>c.</i> 8m x <i>c.</i> 6m	?Tree hollow.

Appendix 3

The Finds

Paul Cope-Faulkner BA, AIFA,
Hilary Healey MPhil and Phil Mills BA

Provenance

Although modern artefacts provide the largest component of the assemblage, the sources of the individual pieces of this period are uncertain. The medieval and early post-medieval pottery comes from production sites in south Lincolnshire, including Bourne, 17km to the east of the investigation area, and Stamford, 15km to the southeast. One of the fragments of Roman date, the Nene Valley Colour Coated pottery, was produced in the Nene Valley, near Peterborough in northern Cambridgeshire, 30km to the southeast, but was a ware that was traded widely. The Roman tile fragment is in a fabric previously identified at Sleaford, 30km to the northeast, and is likely to be a Lincolnshire product.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The earliest artefacts in the small assemblage are prehistoric flints of probable Late Neolithic-Bronze Age date, though there is also Roman, medieval, post-medieval and recent material in the assemblage. Recent artefacts of 18th-20th century date are the most frequent objects in the collection which includes pottery, ceramic tile, glass, animal bone and flint.

The tile from (024) is comparable in fabric with material from excavations at Sleaford Police Station. At that site, tiles in this fabric (SPS2) were used, apparently, to roof a late 3rd century AD building (Mills, forthcoming), and this dating has therefore been suggested for the fragment from South Witham.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
unstratified, House A	2x ceramic drain	20th century
	1x moulded window glass	20th century
	2x unidentified animal bone fragmentsa	
unstratified, House D	1x natural flint	
unstratified, House E	1x Bourne D ware pancheon	16th-17th century
unstratified, House F	1x Stamford ware, abraded	10th-13th century
	1x ?white glazed tableware, burnt	18th-20th century
unstratified, House H	1x ceramic tile	18th-20th century
	1x clinker	
002	1x unidentified green glazed sherd	15th-17th century
	1x ceramic field drain	19th-20th century
	1x flint flake, ?retouched	late neolithic-Bronze Age
003	1x Nene Valley Colour Coated ware, abraded	Roman
005	1x ?roughly dressed limestone block	

024	1x ceramic tile, abraded	Roman, late 3rd century?
025	1x flint blade fragment, retouched	late neolithic-Bronze Age
	1x cattle metatarsus, rodent gnawed	
039	1x dark grey sandy coarseware	Roman

Condition

In general, all the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. However, the medieval and Roman ceramic material, both pottery and tile, is generally quite abraded. Archiving of the assemblage should be by material class.

Documentation

There has been limited previous formal archaeological investigations in South Witham, though artefacts and sites in the area have been found and reported. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is very limited, though funerary and settlement remains of Roman date are much more widespread and known from several separate locations in the vicinity. South Witham is a documented medieval and later settlement.

Individual artefacts types have been studied and are the subjects of various reports, including Nene Valley Roman pottery (Howe *et al.* nd), Stamford ware (Kilmurry 1980) and Bourne ware (Healey 1969).

Potential

Because of the small quantity and worn condition, the Roman and medieval artefacts are of limited potential. Both periods of artefacts are likely to have entered the area as manuring scatter, though the slightly greater amount of Roman material may tentatively suggest the general proximity of a settlement of that period. In consideration of the small quantities involved, it is also likely that the post-medieval and modern artefacts were introduced to the area through manuring or other agricultural practices. The stone fragment from (005) is of moderate potential in that it may indicate the former presence of a masonry structure on the site. Additionally, the flints are of moderate potential and indicate a human presence in the area during the prehistoric period.

References

- Healey, R H, 1969 'Bourne Ware', in J B Whitwell and C M Wilson, *Archaeological Notes for 1968, Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 4
- Howe, M D, Perrin, J R and Mackreth, D F, nd *Roman Potery from the Nene Valley: A Guide*, Peterborough City Museum Occasional Paper 2
- Kilmurry, K, 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincolnshire, c. A.D. 850-1250*, BAR British Series 84
- Mills, P, forthcoming 'The Ceramic Building Material', in Herbert, N, *Archaeological Excavations at the New Police Station, the Hoplands, Boston Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (SPS 97)*

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Alluvial	Pertaining to alluvium, which is soil or other deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is laid down by the sea, freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or in lakes.
Bronze Age	Part of the prehistoric era (<i>q.v.</i>), characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2000-700 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	Part of the prehistoric era (<i>q.v.</i>), this period is also known as the 'New Stone Age' and dates from 4000 - 2000 BC
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

51	Context records
6	Photographic record sheets
11	Drawing sheets
1	Box of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 160.97

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SWT97

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.